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THE ZOOLOGIST:

A

POPULAR MONTHLY MAGAZINE

OF

NATURAL HISTORY,

AND

JOURNAL FOR RECORDING FACTS & ANECDOTES

RELATING TO

QUADRUPEDS, BIRDS, REPTILES, FISHES, ANNELIDES,

INSECTS, WORMS, ZOOPHYTES, &c.

THEIR HABITS, FOOD, RETREATS, OCCASIONAL APPEARANCE,

MIGRATIONS, NESTS AND YOUNG.

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ZOOLOGICAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

Under this title, adopted in part from another periodical, I shall be very happy to insert any query however apparently trivial. Facts and opinions may also be briefly recorded, but I cannot consent to *index* such communications and thus place them on a level with those attested by a name and address.

Ipswich Museum: Case of Carnivora.—I greatly regret that the narrow limits of the 'Zoologist' prevent my giving insertion to the very interesting (although voluminous) report of the Anniversary Meeting of the Ipswich Museum. One of the most interesting incidents of this great gathering, was the exhibition of a magnificent case, containing all the larger carnivorous animals, admirably preserved in life-like attitudes, and placed amid appropriate scenery: this case was the gift of the Marquis of Bristol, at a cost, it is said, of nearly £200.—*E. Newman.*

Proceedings of the Entomological Society.—In reading this record as it comes before me every month for publication in the 'Zoologist,' I have often thought that its interest might be greatly increased by more frequent notices of the habits and economy of the living insect. Without attempting in any degree to undervalue the numerous papers tending to the just discrimination of cabinet specimens from each other, I cannot resist the conviction that the attainment of such knowledge is rather to be regarded as a means of obtaining the end, than the end itself. In order to make ourselves thoroughly acquainted with nature, we should surely rather regard her as the soul of living bodies, than as the cast-off vestiture of instinct-guided intelligences.—*E. Newman.*

Correction of an Error.—You have made a mistake in your preface to this year's vol. of the 'Zoologist': I did not collect at Whittlesea Mere this season: I expect your mistake arose from the report of the Entomological Society, in the August number; *Phragmataecia Arundinis*, was the only insect then exhibited by me that came from the Mere.—*F. Bond.*

The Gigantic Moa.—Accounts received from New Zealand render it extremely probable that this enormous bird, heretofore supposed extinct, may yet be found in a living state.

The Hjerpe or Hjarpe, mentioned in the Rev. C. Smith's very graphic and interesting notes on the birds of Norway, and called by him the hazel hen, is the hazel grouse of Pennant, *Tetrao Bonasia* of authors.—*W. T. W. Bird.*

Reports of Societies.—I think it desirable to make the Reports of the meetings of Scientific Societies as much as possible a simple record of the papers brought forward, and to omit entirely all verbal criticisms thereon. In the Society to which I have long had the honour to belong, the Geological, this rule is strictly observed. Post-prandial speeches are liable to be influenced by feelings of friendship, jocularly or dislike, and in either case are better confined to the audience to which they are addressed. I am led to this remark by a report, in which a Mr. Westwood figures, in reference to a paper on the economy of bees, as having delivered a speech which conveys no information, communicates no fact, corrects no error, and lastly, although in my estimation of the greatest importance, is not *rigidly* in accordance with truth.—*F. G. S.*

[I entirely agree with the sentiments here expressed: criticism does not seem to me so agreeable a plaything that you should be always handling it; it annoys and alienates the person criticised, is displeasing to every lover of peace and goodwill, and instructs no one unless confined within the proper limits of a review.—*E. Newman.*]

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